

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒
no ☐

Property Name: Elkton West Residential District (expanded) Inventory Number: CE-1532
Address: 300 Block W. Main Street (MD 7D) Historic district: X yes ☐ no
City: Elkton Zip Code: 21921 County: Cecil
USGS Quadrangle(s): Elkton
Property Owner: multiple Tax Account ID Number: multiple
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): multiple Tax Map Number: 314
Project: MD 7D: MD 213 to End of SHA Maintenance Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration
Agency Prepared By: Maryland State Highway Administration
Preparer's Name: Melissa Blair Date Prepared: 06/23/2008
Documentation is presented in: CE-1532 and CE-1295
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: X A ☐ B X C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

This Determination of Eligibility form serves to expand the Elkton West Residential District (CE-1532) in Cecil County, Maryland. On September 11, 2002, the Maryland Historical Trust determined that the Elkton West Residential District was eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The district exemplifies workers' housing of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and is significant under Criterion A for association with Elkton's history and development and under Criterion C for architecture. The Elkton West Residential District is part of the larger Elkton Multiple Resource Area (CE-1295).

The 300 block of West Main Street was not included within the initial boundaries of the Elkton West Residential Historic District, however, buildings along this block fit the criteria and period of significance of the district. The block is immediately adjacent to the west side of the district and contains approximately thirty residential properties that date to the early twentieth century. The majority of houses along this block are two-story, single-family dwellings or duplexes. Most are examples of early twentieth-century vernacular architecture typical of worker housing in the region. Many houses are of frame construction, with gable roofs covered with asphalt shingles, walls clad with weatherboard or vinyl siding, and stone or concrete foundations. Houses are set close to the road on narrow lots with principle facades facing the road. Numerous properties contain sheds and garages.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended ☐
Criteria: X A ☐ B X C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Jim Janummes ✓
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Blum
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/11/08

Date

7/14/08
Date

200802164

While the houses along the 300 block of West Main Street lack individual distinction, there are part of grouping of resources that achieve significance as a whole. The 300 block of West Main Street is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP as part of the Elkton West Residential District. The block retains sufficient historic integrity to convey the overall historic district's sense of time, place, and historical development.

In 2002, the boundary of the Elkton West Residential District included buildings on both sides of West Main Street between Maffit and Blue Ball Streets, the east side of Blue Ball Street between West Main Street and the Conrail tracks, both sides of West High Street between Blue Ball and Maffit Streets, and both sides of Maffit Street between West High and West Main Streets. The expanded portion of the district includes buildings on both sides of West Main Street between Blue Blue Street and the railroad tracks. Several properties along the 300 block of West Main Street have been excluded from the boundaries due to modern dates of construction. Buildings along Curtis Avenue, which is one street south of West Main Street, have been excluded because they are primarily mid-twentieth century examples of suburban domestic architecture or more modern structures.

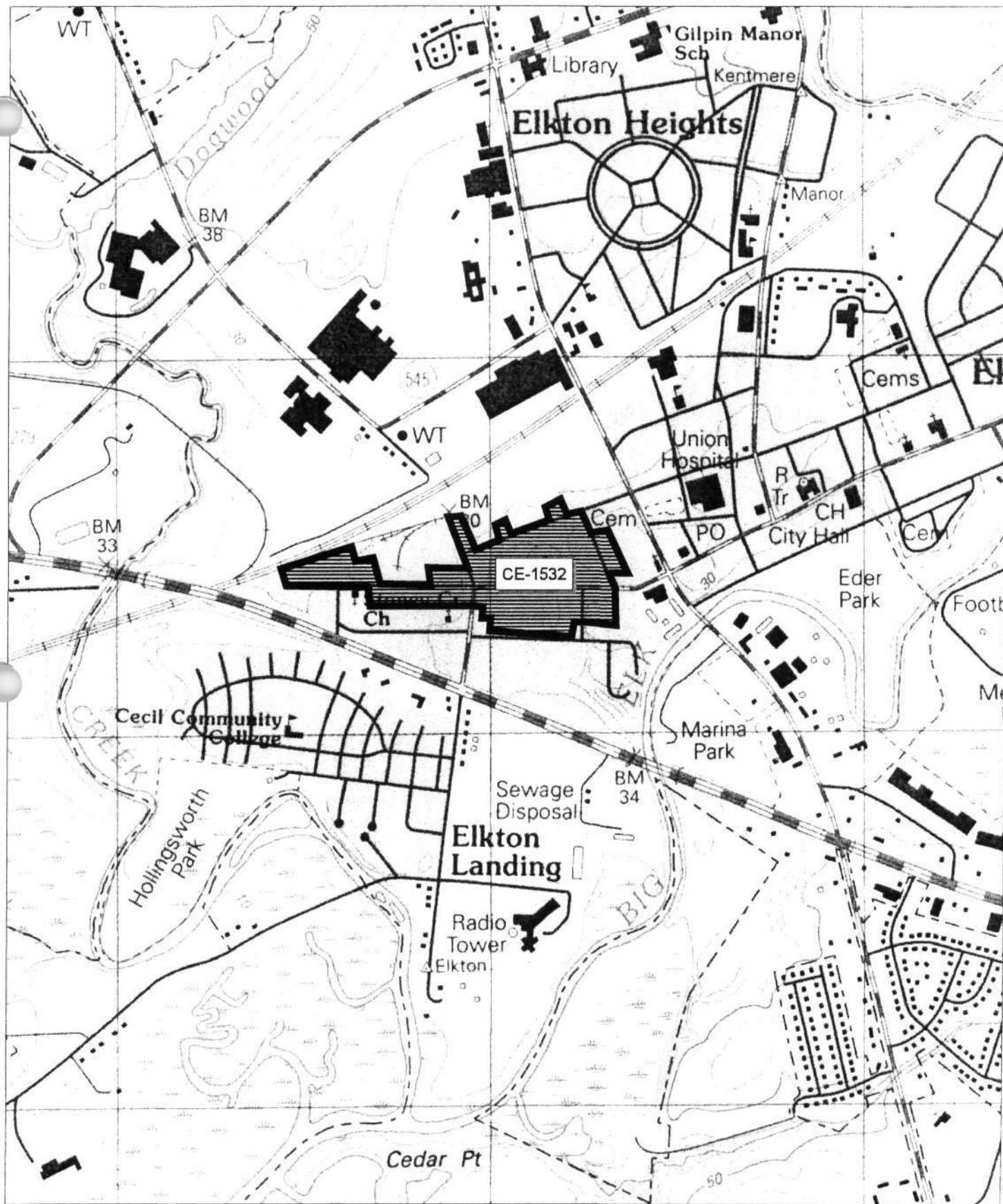
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date



CE-1532
 Elkton West Residential District
 Elkton
 Cecil County
 USGS Elkton Quad





CE-1532

West Residential District

300 Block West Main Street

Elkton

Cecil County

M. Blair

6/2008

MD SHPO

389, 385, and 381 West Main Street

photo 1 of 8



CE-1532

West Residential District

300 Block West Main Street

Elkton

Cecil County

M. Blair

6/2008

MD SHPO

View West towards end of Block

Photo 2 of 8



CE-1532

West Residential District.

200 Block West Main Street

Elkton

Cecil County

M. Blair

6/2008

MD SHPO

View East from end of block

Photo 3 of 8



CE-1532

West Residential District

300 Block West Main Street

Elkton

Cecil County

M. Blair

6/2008

MD SHPO

View West - 365-355 West Main Street

Photo 4 of 8



CE-1532
West Residential District
300 Block West Main Street

Elkton

Cecil County

M. Blair

6/2008

MD SHPO

View Southeast - 342 and 344 West Main Street

Photo 5 of 8



CE-1532
West Residential District
300 Block West Main Street
Elkton

Cecil County

M. Blair

6/2008

MD SHPO

View West

Photo 6 of 8

322 thru 332 West Main Street



CE-1532

West Residential District

300 Block West Main Street

Elkton

Cecil County

M. Blair

6/2008

MD SHPO

View Southeast - 310 and 312 West Main Street

Photo 7 of 8



CE-1532
West Residential District
300 Block West Main Street
Elkton
Cecil County
M. Blair

6/2008
MD SHPD

View East towards Landing Lane
Photo 8 of 8

NR Eligible: yes ☒ no

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The West Residential District of the Elkton Multiple Resource Area is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C, architecture. The buildings exemplify the residential development of the west end of Elkton in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although owners have made some alterations, the entire area is an excellent example of a variety of nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural styles. House styles include Queen Anne, Gothic Revival and American Foursquare styles and there are single family dwellings, duplexes and at least one triplex. Research conducted did not identify events or persons of importance to local, state or national history and thus the West Residential District is not eligible under NRHP Criteria A or B. Criterion D was not investigated as part of this study.

MHT Comments:

Date _____

Date _____

200501754

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Addendum

CE-1532

MIHP Number: ~~CE-1295~~

Property Name: Elkton Multiple Resource Area --West Residential District

Property Address: West Main Street and Maffitt Street, West High Street, Blue Ball Road and Landing Lanes to include the rear property lines of the houses on the south side of West Main Street crossing Osage Street. Excluded from the District are the dwellings on Mackall, Landing Lane and Osage Street, the commercial buildings between Maffitt and Bridge streets on West Main Street, and the industrial area on the north side of High Street.

The 1980 MIHP form for the Elkton Multiple Resource Area describes the West Residential District as a District of late nineteenth and early twentieth century workers housing. The District is comprised of a variety of housing styles including one Queen Anne as well as several examples of Foursquare and Gothic Revival buildings. The neighborhood is a combination of single family dwellings, duplexes and one triplex on relatively small lots. They are set close to the street. The buildings have additions and some are now clad in vinyl or aluminum siding and one is covered in bricktex. However, the architectural details such as porches, chimneys, bow windows and doors have not been altered or lost. Features such as Stick-style porch supports, saw-cut decorated eaves and gables, and vergeboards are found throughout the district. The street façade retains its early twentieth century character.

Research based on nineteenth and twentieth century maps, included Martenet's 1857 Map of Cecil County with a detail map of Elkton, the 1877 Atlas of Cecil County by Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, and the Sanborn Map Company maps for Elkton from 1931 and 1962 as well as the Fowler & Kelly Birdseye View of Elkton from 1907 demonstrate the development of this area.

Elkton's early development in the late eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth century benefited from the ships traveling on the Big Elk River between Baltimore and Elkton. Likewise, the Post Road, which connected Baltimore with Philadelphia and New York, passed through the town. Most of Elkton's commercial and residential development during this period occurred east of Bridge Street. West of Bridge Street is the Hollingsworth Tavern, MIHP No. CE-255, an example of an early roadside tavern built to house travelers on the highway. Further to the west of the Tavern the area remained largely farmland until the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The Wilmington and Susquehanna Railroad was constructed to Elkton in 1837 and in 1838, it was taken over by the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad. The railroad track forms a portion the western and northern boundaries of Elkton.

The railroad's construction brought new transportation opportunities to Elkton and its citizens. Also, the town's economic basis was not one product such as tobacco or herring, but a variety of industries, including milling grain to make flour, brick making, and fertilizer manufacturing. According to Martenet's 1857 Map, Samuel King's brick yard stood at the northwest corner of Landing Lane and West Main Street. Howard's Lumber Yard was at the corner of West Main and Bridge streets near the river, while several mills stood on the north side of the railroad tracks. These industries surrounded the West Residential District, and provided work for the people living in the houses in the District.

On the mid-century maps, this area is identified as Little Elkton and it was removed from the main portion of the town at the west end of Main Street. The only road through the area was Main Street (the Post Road) and there were approximately a dozen houses on the south side of the road just east of Landing Lane. These houses feature less decoration than later houses in the District. They are 2-1/2 stories tall with front or side gable roofs and shed roof porches that extend across the front of each house. One example from the early period of "Little Elkton" is the 2-1/2 story, four bay building at 260 West Main Street, CE-1358. It is unnamed on any of the nineteenth century maps but on the 1931 Sanborn Map, it is shown as a two story duplex with several one story additions. Other early buildings include the duplex at 248-250 West Main Street, CE-1357. This building is identified on the 1858 Martenet Map as the Bennett-Russell Store and on the 1877 Lake, Griffing & Stevenson Atlas as the R. Bennett House. It is a three story building, with a shallow hipped roof. Each half of the building has three bays, but the entrances differ. In the east portion, the entrance is a side hall at the center of the building. In the west portion, it is a center hall entrance between two bay windows. The building appears to be a late example of the Greek Revival style dwelling, with a glass transom and side lights around the main residential entrance and single sash windows in the attic. Both buildings are contributing resources to the West Residential District but are not individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

As noted on the 1877 Lake, Griffing & Stevenson Atlas of Cecil County, by the third quarter of the nineteenth century, Mrs. Downey had built her Queen Anne style house on the northwest corner of Main Street and what would become Maffitt Street. The house is a 2-1/2 story, cross gable building. The south and east facades have two-story bow windows in each floor and a wraparound porch extends across the first floor. The area on the north side of Main Street is noted as the Maffitt Estate, as it the area on the east side of Maffitt Road. Jonathan Lair established a foundry on the southwest corner of the High and Bridge streets intersection. Near the river, Scott & Brothers had established a manufacturing business making fertilizer, south of Howard's Lumber Yard. The Hollingsworth Tavern then belonged to Col. G. R. Howard and Trinity Episcopal Church stood at the corner of Bridge and West Main streets.

By the turn of the twentieth century, Elkton had incorporated the West Residential District area into the town limits. Because of all of the industrial businesses, the land was undoubtedly cheaper which made it attractive to those who wanted larger houses on

smaller lots. The 1907 Birdseye View by Fowler and Kelly demonstrates the growth of Little Elkton, which had not been included in the earlier Sanborn Company maps. The growing importance of Elkton's industrial sector caused the Pennsylvania Railroad to extend a siding from the main tracks to the Scott fertilizer factory and the Kenmore Pulp and Paper Company. The extension was also built in response to the loss of the shipping channel in Big Elk Creek. The Elkton High School stood on the south side of Mackall Street (William H. Mackall was a Scott Fertilizer Company Vice President in 1899), south of the West Residential Area. It was a two story, cross gable building with a raised basement, a hipped roof and a cupola on top. The entrance was recessed, but a one-bay wing extended from the rear of the building. Manufacturing continued to be important to Elkton's economy – the birdseye view indicates that barge building and textile manufacturing were two new industries helping to fuel Elkton's continued growth.

By the early twentieth century, all the lots on West Main Street on the south side between Osage and Landing had been built out, except for one area where a stream crossed the road. On the north side of West Main, as well as along High, Maffitt, Osage and Mackall, houses are shown, but not all the lots had been filled. The industrial area southeast of the West Residential District continued to grow. The Kenmore Pulp and Paper Company, including a permanent pile of pulp wood, had been built west of the fertilizer factory.

As the MIHP form notes, there have been few modern intrusions in the West Residential District. One late example of a commercial and social building at the west end of the district is the Odd Fellow Hall Building, at 265-267 West Main Street, a two story, five-bay structure with brick buttresses on the east and west sides of the building. Its roof is hidden behind the stepped parapet. The front is of brick while the sides are of stucco. The first floor is used for commercial purposes while the second floor is used socially. This building contributes to the District.

Together, these houses exemplify several nineteenth and twentieth centuries building styles as they were built for workers in nearby industries.



1532
CE-1295 WEST RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
Elkton - 215-217-219 WEST MAIN.

Carroll WAD
ARMDR.
March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 4A>005
504 1717 -1 N N-3-54 <044>0

WAD SAFO

North side looking west
215-217-219-220 WEST MAIN



1532
CC- ~~12015~~ WEST RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
Election - 2164, 218 WEST MAIN & GENERAL
SNOW OF SOUTHSIDE

Carib Co. ND
A. P. Miller
March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 6A>00Z
504 1717 -1 N N-1-22 <044>0

INDSAPB

South side looking west



NO
PARKING
6AM-8AM
TUES & FRI

1532
1245

Elkton - West Residential District

Cecil Co MD

AR Study

March 2003

ART-2611 <No. 7A>008
504 1217 -1 N N-1-88 <044>0

UNSAVED

Looking west at south side



1532
CE - ~~1295~~

Elkton - West RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

Carroll Co, MD

APR 1977

March 2003

ART-2611 <No. BA>009
504 1717 -1 N N-2-77 <044>0

W.D. SARTO

Close-up of details on fence
and ref. detail at 217 W. Main



1532
CE-129

Elkton - West Residential District

Cecil Co, MD

APR 2005

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 9A>010
504 1717 -1 N N-5-66 (044)0

MD 510

Close up of details on 257 & 258
West Main gate



1532
CE-125

Edmon - West Residential District
Cecil Co, MD

as under

March 03

IND SNAB

ART-2611 (No. 10A) 011
584 1717 -1 N N-4-60 (044) 0

North Side, looking east
at 237-235 West Main



1532
CE-1795

Eden West Residential District

Cecil Co, MD

CP Study

March 05

WISNFO

ART-2611 <No. 11A>012

504 1717 -1 N N-4-31 <044>0

North side looking east



1532
CE-1798

Elkhorn West Residential District

Coastal Co. VAD

ASunder

March 05

ART-2611 <No. 13 >001
506 1717 -1 N N-1-57 <044>0

VADSHRO

South side looking east



CE 1532
1-2015

Elkton West Residential District
South Side of West Main St
Cecil Co, MD

Prueby
3/2005

ART-2611 <No. 19A>020
504 1717 -1 N N-2-23 <044>0

MD AHO

East & north facades of 242-244-24
West Main St



1532

CE 11-29-75

Elkton - West
Cecil Co. MD.

RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
248-250 WEST MAIN ST

abunder

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 14>002
506 1717-1 N N N-79 (044)0

South side looking west



1532
CE 1245

Elkton - West. Residential District

Cecil Co, MD

AR under

March 203

MD 5170

ART-2611 <No. 14A>015
584 1717 -1 N N-2-80 <044>0

North side, looking west
including CE 1350
260 West Main St



1532
CE 125

Election - West Residential District

Cecil Co, MD

at school

March 2003

MD SRA

ART-2611 <No. 15A>016
504 1717 -1 N N-2-62 <044>0

Ad. Fellows Hall on north
side of West Main Street



1532

CE-129

Elton West Residential District

Coal Co, MD

ARMID

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 16A>017
504-1717 -1 N N-2-69 (044)0

VND SAFO

Looking east on MD 7 @ north
side, including Coal Fellows
Hall from Landing Lane.



1532
CE 1293

ELKTON - West Residential District
Cecil Co, MD.

Revised

MARCH 2005

WMSA

ART-2611 <No. 17A>018
504 1717 -1 N N-2-70 <044>0

LOOKING EAST ON WEST MAIN ST
FROM LANDING LANE



1532
CE-1215

Elkton, West Residential District
Maffett Street

Carl C. MD.

Primer

2/2005

ART-2511 <No. 21A>022
504 1717 31 N-1-84 (04420)

MSAP

Looking north off Maffett St
east side



1532
CE-1295

ELKTON WEST RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
ORANGE STREET

CECIL CO, MD

POUNDER

MARCH 2005

ART-2611 <No. 28A>B21
504 1717 -1 N N-2-54 <B44>C

INDSNEO

LOOKING SOUTH AT DEER SIDE OF
ORANGE ST.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒
no ☐

Property Name: Elkton West Residential District Inventory Number: CE-1532
Address: _____ City: Elkton Zip Code: _____
County: Cecil USGS Topographic Map: Elkton
Owner: _____ Is the property being evaluated a district? ☒ yes
Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
Project: _____ Agency: _____
Site visit by MHT staff: ☒ no _____ yes _____ Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property is located within a historic district? _____ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district _____ yes Eligible district _____ yes Name of District: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource _____ yes _____ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context _____ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes _____ no

Criteria: _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D Considerations: _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ E _____ F _____ G _____ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The West Residential District also [like the North Residential District] exemplifies workers' housing of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The houses in this district are generally somewhat larger and more stylish than those in the North District, and occupy larger, tree0-shaded lots. Several brick buildings appear here, although most are of frame construction. Decorative features typical of the period are evident, such as the sawn vergeboard trim of 217 West Main Street, and the stickwork detailing of 222 and 224 West High Street. There have been few alterations or intrusions in the West Residential District, which includes buildings on both sides of West Main Street between Maffit and Blue Ball Streets, the east side of Blue Ball Street between West Main Street and the Conrail tracks, both sides of West High Street between Blue Ball and Maffit Streets, and both sides of Maffit Street between West High and West Main Streets.

Significance:

Elkton's advantageous location at the juncture of major transportation corridors was instrumental in its achievement of significance in the military, commercial, and industrial history of the region.

Elkton figures prominently in the military history of the nation. It served as a key point of embarkation during the Revolutionary War: in 1777 the British general Howe landed his armies here en route to Philadelphia; it was this maneuver

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ **Eligibility not recommended** _____
Criteria: ☒ A _____ B ☒ C _____ D Considerations: _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ E _____ F _____ G _____ None
MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Elkton West Residential District

Page 2

CE-1532

which doomed General Burgoyne at Saratoga. In March, 1781, Lafayette embarked from Elkton with his troops bound for Annapolis, and in September of the same year, Washington also embarked from Elkton to inaugurate the climactic Yorktown campaign. Elkton retained its strategic importance during the War of 1812 when British marines under Admiral Cockburn mounted an unsuccessful attack on the town.

Elkton preceded Baltimore in the development of the flour-packing industry and was hailed by 1807 as an important wheat market, with trade at that time having attained a level of 250,000 bushels per year. After the War of 1812, packet lines continued to run between Elkton and Baltimore, and the New Castle Frenchtown Railroad (1832) increased Elkton's importance as a transportation center. Numerous mills were established on the Elk River, evidenced by surviving millraces, and the town thrived. Prosperity waned in subsequent years until the post-Civil War period, when new industries, including pulp mills, machine shops, fertilizer plants, and canneries came to the town, stimulating housing construction, as reflected in the late 19th c. residential districts.

Elkton's history and development are clearly reflected in the five districts and four individual structures within the Multiple Resource Area. The town is architecturally significant in possessing a large and varied collection of well-preserved structures representing changes in fashions in residential, commercial, and ecclesiastical architecture from the mid-18th to early 20th centuries, with an especially fine concentration of houses, churches, and commercial buildings dating from the latter half of the 19th c.

[extracted from P. Kurtze & P. Weissman]

Prepared by: P. Kurtze & P. Weissman, MHT (1980 & 82)

Date Prepared: _____

CE-1532

ELKTON MULTIPLE RESOU : AREA

CE-1295

Surveyed for N.R. Eligible Resources onlyDESCRIPTION

Elkton West Residential District

(See p. 5)

The town of Elkton was incorporated and designated the seat of Cecil County, Maryland, in 1787. Elkton's growth and development from the earliest patent in the 17th century through the twentieth can largely be attributed to its location at the juncture of the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay and overland travel routes, including the original Post Road between Philadelphia and Baltimore. An important commercial and industrial center in its early years, Elkton suffered a decline in prosperity in the mid-19th century, but the coming of new industries circa 1880-1900 again spurred the town's development.

The history of Elkton's development is amply reflected in its architecture, although a series of fires beginning in 1838 and recent re-development have affected the survival of historic structures. Surviving resources are broadly separated by recent or substantially altered structures; it is for this reason that a determination of National Register eligibility as a multiple resource area is being sought. In its present form, Elkton exhibits a variety of styles, types, and levels of architecture clearly representing aspects of its long and various history, including a civic and commercial district, three areas of working-class housing and a neighborhood of fashionable homes of more affluent residents, and a number of individual sites representing different architectural forms and historic periods.

BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of Elkton multiple resource area are very similar to the corporate boundaries of the town as shown in Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson's 1877 Atlas of Cecil County. The area is bounded on the east and south by Big Elk Creek, on the north by the Conrail Tracks, and on the west by Landing Lane. Within the area are five smaller cohesive historic districts, including the Commercial district, the East, North, West, and East High Street Residential Districts, and interspersed among these are several individual sites worthy of listing in the National Register.

COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

The Commercial District comprises a number of architecturally-related structures dating from the second half of the 19th century through the first quarter of the 20th, located on both sides of North Street between Main and High Streets and on both sides of Main Street from Bridge Street to Groome Lane.

The Clayton Building or Odd Fellows Lodge (1857) (1) stands at 114-118 North Street, a three-story gable-front brick building embodying features of the Romanesque Revival and Italianate styles. Above the first story, the facade is divided into five recessed bays holding tall, round-arched openings on the second story and arched 6/6 sash above, terminating in an elaborate arched corbel table under the bracketed eaves. The Elkton Police Department headquarters, (2) just south of the Clayton Building, is a massive two-story three-bay brick structure with a central tower suggesting the Italianate style. The Whig Building (1841, rebuilt 1882) (3) at 125 North Street, is a two-story, two-bay brick building representing a combination of mid to late 19th century architectural fashions. The Cecil County Banking and Trust Company, (4) 121

CE-1532

North Street, is an early 20th century Neoclassical building with a granite-block facade. The remaining structures on North Street are brick vernacular commercial buildings of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (5)

The three-story stuccoed Howard Hotel (6) at the northwest corner of North and Main Streets provides an important visual anchor with its two-story porch and seven-bay facade. For a block's distance east and west of the hotel, Main Street is lined on both sides with two or three story commercial buildings, usually of brick, dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which convey a feeling of "downtown" characteristic of small towns throughout the region. (7) (8)

West of Bow Street, the south side of Main Street is lined with a group of adjoining two and three story 18th and 19th century buildings. Formerly houses, several are now partially modernized and converted to commercial use. 154 West Main Street (8) is one of the earliest; it has beaded siding and still reflects its original character. Just west of this group are several detached mid and late 19th century residences; several of these are also converted to commercial use, such as 158 West Main Street (9), a mid-century hipped roofed house reflecting Greek Revival and Italian influence. At the corner of Main and Bridge Streets, the western boundary of this district, is a group of adjoining late 19th century brick buildings, including a three-story row house (10) and three story commercial block. (11)

The north side of this section of Main Street differs from the south side in that it contains a series of large, detached structures of varying types and periods, set back from the street. The Chevron gas station (12) on the northwest corner of Main and Bow Streets was erected circa 1935 as a Pure Oil Company station; its picturesque cottage form is typical of the "Domestic" style which characterized gas station architecture from the mid-twenties through the 1930's. Just west of this building is Partridge Hill, (13) 129 West Main Street, a fine, well preserved brick house of 1768 with many of its original interior features. It was built by Colonel Henry Hollingsworth, who was Quartermaster and Commissary of the Eastern Shore during the Revolutionary War.

The Colonial Revival House at 135 West Main (14), a brick, gambrel roofed house with a date of 1885 in its north gable, is an early building in this style and still retains many of its original decorative details. The two-story, hip roofed Elkton Post Office at 137 West Main was built in 1939 of Port Deposit granite. The size height, scale, and design of this simplified Federal Revival style building contribute to the quality of the streetscape in the area. At the western end of the block, at the northeast corner of Main and Bridge Streets, is the First National Bank Building (15), 139 West Main, a tall, three-story Federal style brick building originally a residence. Its unusual four bay wide, asymmetrical fenestration and original appearance are still clearly visible despite a modern balcony and two-story portico. It also has a curved projecting bay on its northwest corner, a feature typical of Federal and Neo-classical design but not frequently seen.

EAST RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

The East Residential District contains buildings fronting on the north side of East Main Street from Groome Lane to the north branch of Big Elk Creek. On the south side of Main Street, it extends from South Street to a short distance west of the branch. It also contains part of Locust Lane and Church Street, north of Main Street.

In addition, it includes the area south of Main Street bounded on the west by South Street, on the south by Howard Street, and along the east side of Delaware Avenue to the creek.

The East Residential District is the largest in size of the four residential districts, and is the richest and most varied in its architecture. It contains well preserved buildings from the 18th century to the 20th century, of varying sizes, ages, levels of complexity, and architectural styles. Buildings reflecting almost every architectural fashion during this period blend easily and comfortably, providing a sense of cohesiveness, continuity, gradual change and evolution (16, 17, 18, 19). There are only a few recent houses, which are small and in traditional design, blending unobtrusively with the older buildings. Many of the district's houses are unified by similar settings of shady yards, tree lined streets, front porches, and in many places, old brick sidewalks (20, 21).

Although there are a number of buildings dating from the late 18th and early 19th century concentrated on the western end of East Main Street within the district, the overall character of the district is dominated by the large and substantial houses built on East Main Street in the late 19th century, (22) a time of commercial prosperity and growth in Elkton. East Main Street can be characterized as Elkton's most fashionable and affluent neighborhood, with the area to its south along Delaware Avenue, South and Howard Streets containing smaller, less elaborate workers' homes like those in the other three residential districts.

The western end of Main Street within the district (23) contains a few late 18th and early 19th century buildings, including the Mitchell House, (24) listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These are often of brick, two stories high, three bays wide, and set close to the street (25). The Hermitage, another early residence, is located further east, off Main Street (26). Further east on Main Street, are a number of mid-19th century houses reflecting Greek Revival and Italian Villa influence (18, 27). These are usually 2 or 2 1/2 stories, three bays wide, and severe and cubical in form with hipped roofs. Several of these are ornamented with unusually elaborate cast iron porches as at 220 (28) and 222 (29) East Main Street.

Several other houses along Main Street reflect the Gothic Revival influence of the mid-19th century (16), with center cross gables, porches, scrollwork brackets, bargeboards and finials. Several homes reflect the architectural fashions of the years following the Civil War, the Italianate and Second Empire, either constructed in these styles or altered with mansard roofs, bracketed cornices, and projecting three-sided bays, as at 257 East Main Street (30). 157 East Main Street (31) is a particularly good example of the Italianate, retaining its mansard roof, quoins, window hoods, bracketed cornice, panelled doors, and long windows, and stucco scored to simulate ashlar.

The buildings which perhaps dominate East Main Street are the large homes built from the 1880's to the early decades of the 20th century, the time of Elkton's commercial expansion. These houses provide excellent examples of several architectural movements of the period. Collectively and also within individual buildings, the eclecticism of the period is clearly reflected.

250 East Main Street (32) features an excellent Stick Style two-story porch on an asymmetrically composed, many gabled Queen Anne house with patterned shingles, the suggestion of medieval overhangs and half-timbering, and many chimneys. A rear wing, however, contains Colonial Revival decoration in its two-story closed-in porch. Next to this, at 252 East Main (33) is another Queen Anne house with similar features and decorative details.

254 East Main (34) combines Queen Anne, Shingle Style, and Colonial Revival elements in a unified design, with a shingled exterior, large porch, interesting sequence of roof lines, and the free interpretation of architectural motifs in the dormer and the recessed window in the front gable. 235 East Main (35) is a Colonial Revival house with a hipped roof main block, sheathed with both shingles and clapboards, and retaining its Colonial Revival decorative detailing. The asymmetrical composition, and the octagonal tower on the southwest corner, however, show the influence of the Queen Anne rather than adherence to principles of classical design.

An unusual house at 242 East Main Street (36), is basically Colonial Revival with a Dutch flavor combined with the influence of the Shingle Style and the bungalow mode. The curved front gable and the treatment of the interrupted east gable chimney with patterned brickwork are interesting features. The district also includes some good small early 20th century bungalows on the west side of Locust Lane, north of East Main Street.

To the south of Main Street, along the east side of South Street, north side of Howard, and both sides of Delaware Avenue, (Md. Rt. 281) is a small area of smaller, less elaborate 19th century houses. Many of these were built to house local workers and are similar to those described in the other three Elkton residential districts. Several two story frame buildings with gable end facades and one story porches are located on the east side of Delaware Avenue (37). Along Howard and South Streets are a number of identical two and three story, gable roofed, duplex houses with roof ridge aligned parallel to the street (38).

The district also contains two churches, both good examples of different phases of 19th century Gothic design. The 1859 Elkton Methodist Church (39) of monochromatic brownstone, is in a simple, traditional ecclesiastical form with a central shingled square tower, and imitative and superficial Gothic motifs. It is typical mid-century Gothic Revival churches built in many Maryland towns. The Presbyterian Church, (40) originally built in 1833 and enlarged to its present form in 1873 is red brick. Its contrasting stone trim, tower and entrance to one side, large central window, increased freedom in the design and in the use of Gothic elements, and increased solidity and sense of massiveness all reflect developments in architectural design in the Victorian Gothic of the 1870's.

NORTH AND WEST RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

The North Residential District, comprising those buildings on the east side of North Street, north of Railroad Avenue, and on both sides of Stockton Street, east of North Street, reflects the housing boom which accompanied the influx of new industries into Elkton in the last quarter of the 19th century. These buildings typify workers' housing of the period (41): predominantly 2 1/2 story, three bay frame houses with gable fronts or central cross-gables, and with one-story porches spanning the facades. Several of these buildings are duplexes. All are located on small lots, spaced close to each other and to the street. Alterations are for the most part minor and reversible, and do not obscure the essential form of these buildings.

The West Residential District also exemplifies workers' housing of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The houses in this district are generally somewhat larger and more stylish than those in the North, and occupy larger, tree-shaded lots. Several brick buildings appear here, although most are of frame construction. Decorative features typical of the period are evident, such as the sawn vergeboard trim of 217 West Main Street (42) and the stickwork detailing of 222 and 224 West High Street. There have been few alterations or intrusions in the West Residential District, which includes buildings on both sides of West Main Street between Maffit and Blue Ball Streets, the east side of Blue Ball Street between West Main and the Conrail Tracks, both sides of West High Street between Blue Ball and Maffit Streets, and both sides of Maffit Street between West High and West Main Streets.

EAST HIGH STREET RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

The East High Street Residential District, comprising the houses on both sides of High Street between North Street and Landing Lane, on both sides of Collins Avenue, Millburn Street, Clinton Street and Bethel Street, and on the west side of Boothe Street, is significant as a community of industrial housing representing the various periods of Elkton's prosperity during the 19th century. While several late 19th century houses similar to those in the North and West residential districts are scattered throughout the neighborhood, the predominant form appears to date from Elkton's ascendancy as a commercial and industrial center around mid-century. These are simple two or three story, gable-roofed frame houses, 3 or 4 bays wide, mostly duplexes, arranged in rows very close to the street. (43, 44) Many retain their original 6/6 sash and clapboard siding; such alterations as have been made to houses within the district are reversible and limited to more recent forms of sash and siding which do not compromise the form and character of these structures.

Two very plain, vernacular Gothic churches are located within the district; both are stuccoed, gable-front structures, three bays wide by four bays deep, with peaked windows. The entrances are centered in the facades, with circular windows above. These buildings are typical of late 19th century churches serving black congregations. (45, 46)

INDIVIDUAL SITES

The following individual structures are also included in the Elkton Multiple Resource Area:

The Cecil County Sheriff's Office (47) on North Street, a long, narrow building with a pedimented gable end facade, is built in two sections. A brick Italianate front section, three bays wide with paired segmentally arched windows and an elaborate doorway, is connected to the rear stone portion and unified under a long gable roof and continuous bracketed cornice.

Hollingsworth Tavern (48) 205-207 West Main Street, is a mid-18th century brick tavern with important associations with Elkton's history as a strategic point on travel and military routes. Similar in form to Partridge Hill, its original appearance and details such as its keystone lintels are still clearly visible despite the modernization of its front doorway.

Brick House (49) 200 West Main Street, is a good example of the typical town houses of the late 18th-early 19th century in Elkton; few of these remain intact and unaltered in Elkton.

Trinity Episcopal Church (50) Northwest corner of West Main Street and Bridge Street, is a carefully designed Victorian Gothic church which is in excellent condition and very well preserved. It features a polychromatic combination of dark stone and contrasting red brickwork which is used in horizontal bands and as trim around openings. It also has a striking bell-tower, buttresses, original large door hinges, stained glass, tiles, and slate roof. To the rear is a small hipped roof brick and stone parish house of similar design (51).

SIGNIFICANCE

Elkton's advantageous location at the juncture of major transportation corridors was instrumental in its achievement of significance in the military, commercial, and industrial history of the region.

Elkton figures prominently in the military history of the nation. It served as a key point of embarkation during the Revolutionary War: in 1777 the British General Howe landed his armies here en route to Philadelphia; it was this maneuver which doomed General Burgoyne at Saratoga. In March, 1781, Lafayette embarked from Elkton with troops bound for Annapolis, and in September of the same year, Washington also embarked from Elkton to inaugurate the climactic Yorktown campaign. Elkton retained its strategic importance during the War of 1812, when British marines under Admiral Cockburn mounted an unsuccessful attack on the town.

Elkton preceded Baltimore in the development of the flour-packing industry and was hailed in 1807 as an important wheat market, with trade at that time having attained a level of 250,000 bushels per year. After the War of 1812, packet lines continued to run between Elkton and Baltimore, and the New Castle Frenchtown Railroad (1832) increased Elkton's importance as a transportation center.

Numerous mills were established on the Elk River, evidenced by surviving mill-races (52), and the town thrived. Prosperity waned in subsequent years until the post-Civil War period, when new industries including pulp mills, machine shops, fertilizer plants and canneries came to the town, stimulating housing construction as reflected in the late 19th century residential districts.

Elkton's history and development are clearly reflected in the five districts and four individual structures within the Multiple Resource Area. The town is architecturally significant in possessing a large and varied collection of well-preserved structures representing changing fashions in residential, commercial and ecclesiastical architecture from the mid-eighteenth to early twentieth centuries, with an especially fine concentration of houses, churches, and commercial buildings dating from the latter half of the nineteenth century.

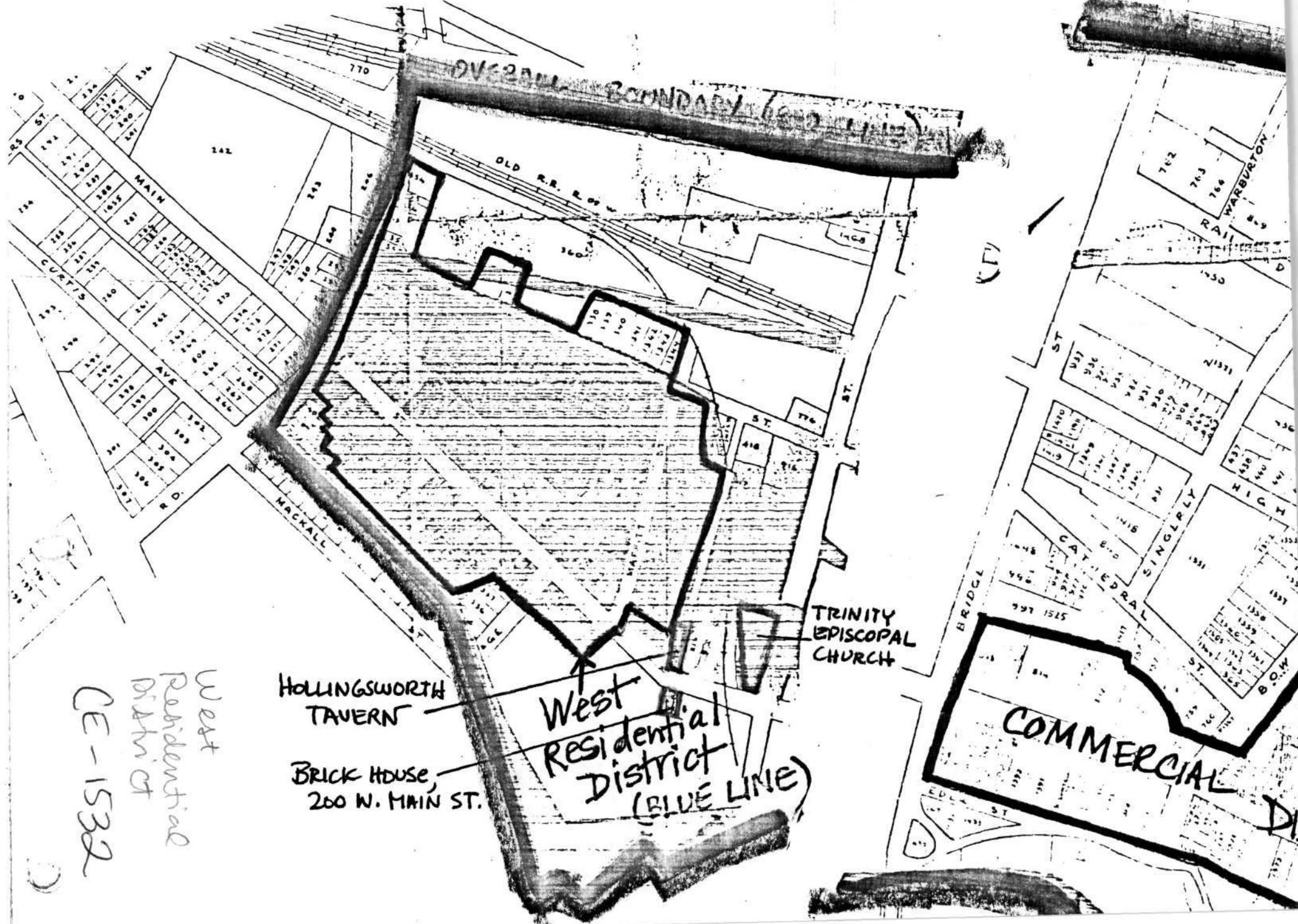
Peter E. Kurtze and Peggy Bruns Weissman
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~~July 16, 1980~~

Text, Revised August 1982 (PBW)
Slightly
Same boundaries etc. as in 1980

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OVERPAUL BOUNDARY (1892 LINE)

OLD R.R. ROW

TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

HOLLINGSWORTH
TAVERN

BRICK HOUSE,
200 W. MAIN ST.

West
Residential
District
(BLUE LINE)

COMMERCIAL

West
Residential
District
CE-1532

CE-1532
Elkton West Residential District

Elkton Quad
Cecil County

NR-Eligible Districts within the Elkton Multiple Resource Area (CE-1295)

